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SPRAGUE SWORN TO HEAD ASSASSINATIONS INQUIRY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7 (AP)—Richard A. Sprague, a former Federal prosecutor, was sworn in today to head a House investigation into the assassinations of President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He said that it could take years to complete the job.

Mr. Sprague, who successfully prosecuted the killers of Joseph A. Yablonski, the United Mine Workers insurgent, vowed that no documents or witnesses would be beyond the scope of his investigation. He said that included Jacqueline Onassis, Mr. Kennedy's widow, and President Ford, who was a member of the Warren Commission, which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Sprague was sworn in as acting counsel and staff director of the House Assassination Committee by the chairman, Thomas N. Downing, Democrat of Virginia.

Both Mr. Downing and Representative Henry B. Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat who is considered likely to succeed Mr. Downing as chairman when Mr. Downing retires at the end of the year, have stated their belief that a conspiracy was behind the November 1963 slaying of Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Sprague insisted that he had no preconception about either the Kennedy slaying or the April 1968 murder of Dr. King. "Conclusions that have been reached heretofore are not of any interest to me," he said.

James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the King murder but is seeking a new trial.